

# Vinnie Paz - Writings on Disobedience and Democracy Lyrics

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"We have to stop thinking that we must have military solutions  
To the problems we face in the world"  
Yeah  
"The solutions that we need are..."  
Picking up where we left off  
"...dealing of sickness, disease, and hunger  
Now that's fundamental  
If you want to end terrorism, you have to stop being terrorists  
Which is what war is"

They told you World War II was a people's war  
Logic should have told them it was imperialist war  
18 million served in the armed forces  
10 million more overseas – that's enormous  
25 million workers pay for war bonds  
All of the while people question why the war's on  
There was an undercurrent of reluctance  
There were under-publicized signs of resistance  
Hitler's Germany was unspeakable evil  
But let's discuss real quick what we did to people  
We opposed the Haitian revolution  
We turned Guam, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii into institutions  
Pretended to help Cuba win freedom from Spain  
This country's built on the blood of other people's pain  
Blacks is looking at anti-Semitism in Germany  
And saw the situation here was mirroring it perfectly  
We appeased Hitler all throughout the '30s  
Only years later we pretended we was worried  
Roosevelt was hesitant to be gritty  
And caused a resolution to be buried in committee

The main interest was never to stop fascism  
But advancing imperialist interests of that prism  
Roosevelt ain't care about oppression of the Jews  
The power was the priority I'm telling you the truth  
Hitler not the reason that we entered the land  
Roosevelt was mad that we got hit by Japan  
Historians will tell you he provoked that shit  
He told lies in attempts to sugar coat that shit  
In '45 troops were jammed onto the Queen Mary  
The blacks were stowed down in the depths of the same ferry  
See there's a parallel you have to understand  
That they wanted them to fight but wouldn't treat them  
Like a man  
Industrial mobilization had a few divided

The economic royalists denounced and derided  
The irony of victory was heavily a price  
The war ended 3 million men was in strike  
There's no peace in a world of capitalism  
Nazi eugenic techonomic rationalism  
The lesson was that war solved problems of control  
Regardless if it causes any problems for the soul

The black revolt in the '50s came as a surprise  
It shouldn't have after we took so many of their lives  
You can't erase the memory of an oppressed people  
Reparation doesn't make it any less evil  
Some black folks joined the communist party  
Richard Wright spoke of disillusionment with the body  
The party was accused of exploiting black people  
Angelo Herndon felt everything was equal  
He was arrested they convicted for insurrection  
How the fuck it's insurrection I call it dissension  
Gave him 5 years when all he wanted was protection  
There was other black men that made the same connection  
Benjamin Davis defended Herndon as a savior  
Then Paul Robeson he only magnified the danger  
Harry Truman had to deal with the militant mood  
But how the fuck that gonna work when he a racist too  
In '54 they said they ended segregation  
10 years later no changes  
Revolt was always minutes away about to bust  
Rosa Parks refused the black section of the bus

The freedom riders were spreading across the nation  
They went to jail for marching and fighting discrimination  
FBI stood by, Justice Department stood by  
While civil rights workers were beaten, they just stood by  
3 civil rights workers, 2 black and 1 white  
Arrested in Philadelphia, Mississippi one night  
They were released, beaten with chains and shot to death  
There were arrests made but it was not confessed  
The national government remained silent  
The president wouldn't defend blacks against violence  
Civil rights laws were passed but they were fraud  
Equality was enforced poorly or was ignored  
Martin Luther King's speech floored whoever heard it  
5 years later he was targeted and murdered  
In '65 the Watts Riots burned into the streets  
The black man would no longer turn the other cheek  
The Black Panther Party scared Nixon  
But that did nothing to change his position  
A new black consciousness was born and still alive  
And that came from the will to survive

This is the part where I would talk about Vietnam  
But me and Rugged Man we already made a song

By the '70s distrust had spread across the nation  
Basic discontent political alienation  
55, 000 died in the war of moral shame  
And then Watergate was added to the hall of pain  
The Watergate burglaries was rather complicated  
But in the end mostly all of them exonerated  
Nixon had CIA a G. Gordon Liddy  
Lie about the Democratic National Committee  
But eventually they all flipped on him  
And told the Senate that they had a lot of shit on him  
After that it was a swift and a sudden fall  
Nixon resigned before they could impeach the ball  
They got rid of Nixon but they kept the system  
His foreign policy still remains in position  
Corporate interests still remain in position  
His closest advisors remain in position  
Vietnam recession and unrest  
All adds up to a motherfucking mess

After Watergate and Vietnam  
There was a deep economic insecurity in this world of ours  
Environmental deterioration took its toll  
A cultural violence upon the families took its toll  
Problems couldn't be solved without bold changes  
But no major party candidates proposed changes  
American political tradition held fast  
Urban communities turning into hell fast  
Black folks are bitterly disappointed with Carter  
Opposed federal aid the poor people didn't bother  
Reagan got elected and he built a military up  
A trillion dollars later  
And this motherfucker dummy up  
He cut benefits for the poor to get the money up  
Social security, disability went belly up  
Unemployment grew in the Reagan years  
30 million people unemployed in the Reagan years  
Welfare became an object of attack  
Especially if you was latino or you was black  
I'm just scratching the surface of what was wrong  
We'll pick the conversation up in the next song

To be continued...  
You can't be neutral on a moving train  
I told y'all before  
You can't believe everything that your teacher tell you  
Who is your teacher?  
Your teacher just learned what they was taught  
How do you know what they was taught was correct?  
Know what I mean?  
Dig into the real history of this country  
And the fact it was built on blood  
We gonna go around for a third time

But for now I'm just blessing y'all with this one  
A continuation of the first  
You can't be neutral on a moving train  
Pazienza  
Howard Zinn thank you for teaching the people  
Rest in Peace  
It's Pazienza baby